



TO INFINITY...

Our esteemed Gill Pringle was on the ground in LA the day before the world premiere of *Avengers: Infinity War*, sharing a room with Earth's Mightiest Heroes.

Over ten years of unparalleled movie-making success, Marvel Studios has released 18 films, collectively grossing more than US\$13 billion.

Marking a decade of prosperity which began with the 2008 release of *Iron Man*, Marvel can afford to be frivolous on the eve of the release of its 19th film, the much-anticipated *Avengers: Infinity War*, the third installment in the Avengers franchise.

Instead of complex explanations of comic-book lore, which is often the case in superhero publicity, Marvel has assembled its shiniest stars and set them up before the media in a game-show contest setting with Jeff Goldblum as its MC.

STACK gamely took part in the experiment, featuring Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Don Cheadle, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Holland, Chadwick Boseman, Zoe Saldana, Tom Hiddleston, Paul Bettany, Elizabeth Olsen, Anthony Mackie, Sebastian Stan, Danai Gurira, Winston Duke, Pom Klementieff, David Bautista, Sebastian Stan and Josh Brolin – all of whom looked about as perplexed as the gathered media.

“
The comic books are always a North Star for us as we lead these giant productions
”

There's really no option but to go along for the ride, as Goldblum's lottery device pops out category prompts such as, “If you are green...” – hello Zoe Saldana and Mark Ruffalo – or “If you wear a cape...” or “If you are from Wakanda...” You get the drift.

The Wakanda question is neatly handballed to Letitia Wright, *Black Panther*'s Shuri, who tells us, “I wish I had a Shuri on TV or in the movies that I could see when I was growing up, and then maybe I would have stayed in my maths classes a bit longer. But hopefully Shuri has allowed young kids to feel that learning is cool and how young women can contribute to the world with science, math, technology and engineering; that it's not just a thing for the guys, that it's also for women to contribute positively.” Australia's beloved caped god Chris

Hemsworth put down his hammer to talk about his first day on this super-charged set: “Being surrounded by Guardians felt like the first day at school for me because they all knew each other, and I didn't, so I felt like the new kid. But it was good to have a whole new dynamic with new people



WET ON WHET YOUR APPETITES

We're only weeks away from the *Deadpool* sequel and not really any the wiser. What does Ryan Reynolds' Merc with a Mouth have in store for us this time? Words Alesha Kolbe

The official synopsis reads:

After surviving a near fatal bovine attack, a disfigured cafeteria chef (Wade Wilson) struggles to fulfil his dream of becoming Mayberry's hottest bartender while also learning to cope with his lost sense of taste. Searching to regain his spice for life, as well as a flux capacitor, Wade must battle ninjas, the yakuza, and a pack of sexually aggressive canines, as he journeys around the world to discover the importance of family, friendship, and flavour – finding a new taste for adventure and earning the coveted coffee mug title of World's Best Lover.

If you like the sound of that, here's what you can expect from the players in this weird and wonderful game...

Wade Wilson/Deadpool played by Ryan Reynolds

Diagnosed with cancer of, well, almost everything, Wade Wilson undergoes a special process that leaves him scarred but nigh indestructible. In *Deadpool 2*, he's still the Merc with a Mouth, and now he's tasked with protecting 'The Kid' from Cable.

Nathan Summers/Cable played by Josh Brolin

Josh Brolin has his work cut out for him as two comic book villains this season (also starring as Thanos in *Avengers: Infinity War*). In *Deadpool 2* he plays Cable, a time-travelling Terminator wannabe who's come back in time to kill The Kid.

'The Kid'/Russell Collins/Firefist played by Julian Dennison

So far known only as 'The Kid', Julian Dennison's involvement in the upcoming film is a bit of a mystery. Referred to as 'Russell' in one of the TV spots, many have speculated that he is actually Russell 'Rusty' Collins, AKA the mutant Firefist. Time will tell.

Vanessa/Copypat played by Morena Baccarin

Vanessa – Wade's damsel in distress – was rescued at the last minute by the man in red himself in the first film. Rumour has it that she's going to dive a little further into her Copypat persona of a mutant shapeshifter. We'll have to wait for the movie to know for sure.

Neena Thurman/Domino played by Zazie Beetz

Domino is a member of the mutant team X-Force – *Deadpool 2*'s own version of the X-Men. She is able to affect probability, and has an interesting past with Cable.

Weasel played by T.J. Miller

Wade's wisecracking buddy is back and will most likely have a very similar role to that of the first film

THE BEST LINES FROM THE TRAILERS:

● **Cable:** "I was born into war. Bred into it. People think they understand pain, but they have no concept of it. What's the most pain you've ever felt? Maybe the kind that leaves you more machine than man."

● **Deadpool:** [On the mutants] "Tough, morally flexible, and young enough to carry their own franchise for 10-12 years."

● **Deadpool:** "Sorry I'm late; I was rounding up all the gluten in the world and launching it into space where it can't hurt us ever again."

● **Deadpool:** "Regeneration powers activate!"

● **Cable:** "Your time's up, you dumb f-k." Deadpool: "Well, that's just lazy writing."

● *Deadpool 2* is in cinemas on May 16

– offering sarcastic advice and staying well away from the danger zone.

Dopinder – played by Karan Soni

A superhero is nothing without a sidekick, and as such, DP would be nowhere without his trusty driver Dopinder. The pair have been through thick and thin together and chances are Deadpool's gonna need a getaway driver at some point in the sequel. **S**

